

Baruch and The Rapture

by Jeremy James



Baruch and Jeremiah

A few years ago I was chatting with a believer in my home town who liked to take unusual trips abroad for his vacation. In those days, when virtually no-one went to Eastern Europe, he booked a trip to Leningrad, now known as St Petersburg. The USSR was still intact at the time and strict rules had to be observed by visitors.

His entry visa was approved just before he flew to St Petersburg. He had always wanted to see this historical city and visit famous sights like the Hermitage Museum and the Peterhof Palace.

Since he was travelling alone, he felt free to vary his itinerary and got the notion to visit Kaliningrad. This was an enclave of the Soviet Union about 870 miles west of St Petersburg. The train journey took 28 hours but he felt it was worth it. It gave him a chance to explore a city that very few westerners ever got to see.

Midway through his return journey, he was suddenly arrested by the KGB, taken off the train and brought to a dour military outpost. Needless to say, he was in shock. One moment he was on the trip of a lifetime and now he languishing in a cold prison cell somewhere in the Soviet Union. He didn't even have access to a phone to notify the Irish embassy of his predicament.

The following day, just when he thought his life would never be the same again, a couple of gruff officials took him by the collar and questioned him sternly. “But what did I do wrong?” he pleaded.

Apparently his visa allowed him to enter the Soviet Union only once. Since his trip to Kaliningrad, which was Soviet territory, had taken him through Latvia and Lithuania, he had tried to enter the Soviet Union a second time and was technically in breach of his visa. This was a very serious offense.

Happily, the LORD heard his prayers. After some threatening gestures and a military-style warning, they sent him back to St Petersburg, emotionally drained but greatly relieved.

Kaliningrad is a strange creation

Kaliningrad is a strange creation. Under its former name, Königsberg, it was at one time the coronation city of the Prussian monarchy. When the Soviet Union overran Germany in 1945, it annexed and retained Königsberg, an arrangement that was later ratified under the Potsdam Agreement. In typical Communist style, the city was renamed in honor of Mikhail Kalinin, a well-known revolutionary and member of the Politburo. More importantly, however, most of the original inhabitants were relocated and the region was repopulated with ethnic Russians. So, what had long been a Germanic city with a proud history was suddenly Russian in every sense.

Today it sits like an island between Poland and Lithuania, two NATO member states – see map. In both political and geographical terms it is an anomaly, an artificial piece of Russia that did not exist until 1945.



Given the way the foundations of the next war are laid as the last one is ending, we can see why the “great powers” would create such an entity. If Russia threatened the west, the countries closest to this enclave would feel the threat more keenly. Kaliningrad could serve as a staging post for an attack on Poland, a NATO member. Rather than permit that to happen, the Polish leaders would be strongly tempted to invade the enclave and neutralise the threat. However, in doing so they will have invaded the sovereign territory of Russia and provided Moscow with an excuse to pour troops into the Baltic States and eastern Poland. If that were to happen, the conflict would escalate into a major war between the west and Russia.

This seems to be where we are heading. A Russian incursion into the Ukraine in the coming months could be used to raise the tension between east and west to the point where the Poles would feel constrained to press the “button” and go into Kaliningrad. By doing so, NATO will have attacked Russia.

All wars are carefully planned in advance

All of these wars are carefully planned, often decades in advance. To the average person, they are readily explained by inevitable military errors, hubris, poor judgment, and political ambition. The public is more likely to accept the official explanation if all the countries involved are seen to make every possible effort to avoid a confrontation. Then, when hostilities break out, very few will guess that this was the intention all along. (See our paper #141 for a more detailed discussion of this.)

The Church has ignored this reality for far too long. As a result, the Enemy has been able to pursue his highly ambitious plans without having to deal with any serious spiritual opposition.

The Next Choreographed War

by Jeremy James



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Our greatest weapon is prayer, especially congregational prayer, but a church that assembles and prays against the evils of this world only one day a week is surely under-performing (if we can use such a term). Worse still, by failing to see how this evil perpetuates itself, the church is not even directing its prayers at the real source of the wickedness in our midst.

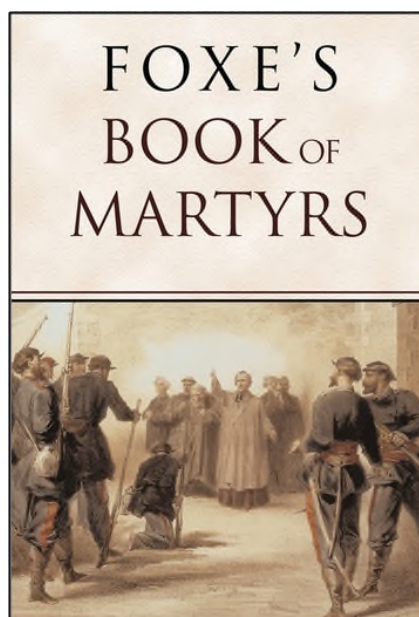
When the church came under attack in the past, it could see its assailants and the methods they were using. The Enemy changed his strategy around 1650 or so and began to develop highly sophisticated methods of deception. Chief among these was infiltration. He would train his servants to enter the ranks of true Christianity and undermine it from within. He would also take control of the empirical sciences and convince mankind that objective truth could be established only through the rigorous application of the correct methodology. This ‘enlightened’ approach would enable man to “reveal” truth to himself and not have to rely on God.

Concealing the sacrifice of the martyrs

Up to that time, the shed blood of the martyrs had placed too many obstacles in his path. The more Christians he persecuted and tortured, or hunted down and cut to pieces, the more difficult his task became.

As part of his new strategy, he would gradually lure believers away from a shared understanding of what the martyrs had achieved. He slowly turned their suffering and their sacrifices into anecdotes that lacked a positive historical context or unfortunate events which over-zealous writers had exaggerated.

A hundred years ago virtually every believer had heard of Foxe’s ‘Book of Martyrs’ and many would have possessed a copy. It was first published in 1563 and underwent many updates and editions. Pastors and preachers used it to remind believers that their religious freedoms were secured at great cost and that the Enemy was continually plotting against them, even when nothing much appeared to be happening.



The spirit behind the atrocities recounted by Foxe is the same spirit that plots against the church today. At that time it worked mainly through the militant wing of the Catholic Church, whereas it now works also through Freemasonry, Marxism, Islam, Kabbalah, and the New Age movement. To better appreciate what we are facing today, a deadly threat in a disguised form, we invite our readers to consider the dark spirit at work in the following sample cases taken from Foxe's anthology.

In the first case we see how a humane Catholic was horrified by what his fellow Catholics had done:

In 1560, Pope Pius the Fourth ordered all the Protestants to be severely persecuted throughout the Italian states, when great numbers of every age, sex, and condition, suffered martyrdom. Concerning the cruelties practiced upon this occasion, a learned and humane Roman Catholic thus spoke of them in a letter to a noble lord:

"I cannot, my lord, forbear disclosing my sentiments, with respect to the persecution now carrying on: I think it cruel and unnecessary; I tremble at the manner of putting to death, as it resembles more the slaughter of calves and sheep, than the execution of human beings. I will relate to your lordship a dreadful scene, of which I was myself an eye witness: seventy Protestants were cooped up in one filthy dungeon together; the executioner went in among them, picked out one from among the rest, blindfolded him, led him out to an open place before the prison, and cut his throat with the greatest composure. He then calmly walked into the prison again, bloody as he was, and with the knife in his hand selected another, and despatched him in the same manner; and this, my lord, he repeated until the whole number were put to death. I leave it to your lordship's feelings to judge of my sensations upon this occasion; my tears now wash the paper upon which I give you the recital. Another thing I must mention – the patience with which they met death: they seemed all resignation and piety, fervently praying to God, and cheerfully encountering their fate."



In the second case we see how the mob often justified its actions by claiming that their victims were possessed by the devil:

Giovanni Pelanchion, for refusing to turn papist, was tied by one leg to the tail of a mule, and dragged through the streets of Lucerne, amidst the acclamations of an inhuman mob, who kept stoning him, and crying out, "He is possessed with the devil, so that, neither stoning, nor dragging him through the streets, will kill him, for the devil keeps him alive." They then took him to the river side, chopped off his head, and left that and his body unburied, upon the bank of the stream.

The third example shows how terror was used to intimidate religious communities and compel them to renounce their beliefs:

Paul Clement, an elder of the church of Rossana, being apprehended by the monks of a neighboring monastery, was carried to the market place of that town, where some Protestants had just been executed by the soldiers. He was shown the dead bodies, in order that the sight might intimidate him. On beholding the shocking subjects, he said calmly, "You may kill the body, but you cannot prejudice the soul of a true believer; but with respect to the dreadful spectacles which you have here shown me, you may rest assured, that God's vengeance will overtake the murderers of those poor people, and punish them for the innocent blood they have spilt." The monks were so exasperated at this reply that they ordered him to be hanged directly...



The fourth example is possibly the most shocking since it shows how a mob – a group of otherwise rational people – can be made to look on their neighbors, friends and relations as sub-human creatures that must be destroyed:

Several men, women, and children secreted themselves in a large cave, where they continued for some weeks in safety. It was the custom for two of the men to go when it was necessary, and by stealth, procure provisions. These were, however, one day watched, by which the cave was discovered, and soon after, a troop of Roman Catholics appeared before it. The papists that assembled upon this occasion were neighbors and intimate acquaintances of the Protestants in the cave; and some were even related to each other. The Protestants, therefore, came out, and implored them, by the ties of hospitality, by the ties of blood, and as old acquaintances and neighbors, not to murder them. But superstition overcomes every sensation of nature and humanity; so that the papists, blinded by bigotry, told them they could not show any mercy to heretics, and, therefore, bade them prepare to die. Hearing this, and knowing the fatal obstinacy of the Roman Catholics, the Protestants [fell on their knees], lifted their hands and hearts to heaven, prayed with great sincerity and fervency, and then, bowing down, put their faces close to the ground and patiently awaited their fate, which was soon decided, for the papists fell upon them with unrelenting fury, and having cut them to pieces, left the mangled bodies and limbs in the cave.

The ultra-rich Luciferian families which control the world today are in thrall to the same dark spirit, the wicked supernatural force which urged fallen humanity to commit the awful deeds recorded for posterity by Foxe.

The lessons of history are being forgotten

We have given these four excerpts from *The Book of Martyrs* to show how important it is that we not forget the lessons of history. Unfortunately, the majority of professing Christians already have. Most have only a vague notion of the extent to which the Antichrist spirit has ravaged the church over the past two thousand years. As a result their interpretation of the events described in the Book of Revelation is largely allegorical. To them it hardly seems possible that “modern man” could resort to such horrifying brutality and bring all life on earth to the brink of annihilation in just seven years.

If we don't understand the past, we won't understand what lies ahead.

This brings us to the most significant of all future events.

Many Christians today are impatient for the Rapture. They can see the approaching darkness and the wickedness in high places. They are unnerved by the awful plans that Satan and his earthly servants have made to subjugate mankind and install the Antichrist. So they want to leave the earth before the orderly lives they have known begin to fall apart.

Their impatience is understandable – to some degree – but not if it disturbs their peace of mind. Unfortunately this seems to be happening. Many are speculating over dates and trying to figure out when this astounding event is likely to take place.

If we look closely at what the Apostle Paul said to the Thessalonians, we will see that he expected believers to have a different attitude:

“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:17-18)

These believers were to comfort one another by sharing the good news of the Rapture, an event that could occur at any time. To comfort means to reassure, to allay anxiety and put a person’s heart at rest.



An audience listens to the Apostle Paul [Detail]

Christians who believe in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture should have no concern about when it will take place. That is a matter for God alone. Our task is to live in the expectation that it will happen at a moment that is best for everyone and to be buoyed up continually by the knowledge that we are in God’s hands. None of us have earned this gift and yet we have been chosen by God in His mercy to receive it.

We should think rather about those who have not yet found Jesus and those whose hopes will be shattered by End Time events. Are believers ready to witness to these people in their distress, or are they focusing mainly on their personal concerns?

As in the days of Noah

Jesus said the days of the coming of the Son of Man will be similar to the days of Noah:

“But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” (Matthew 24:37-39).

Many take this passage to mean that life at the time of Noah was fairly settled and nothing untoward or unnatural was happening. But that is not what the Word of God says:

“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.” (Genesis 6:11. See also v.13)

“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” (Genesis 6:5)

If the earth was filled with violence before the Flood, it will also be filled with violence before the Rapture.

How much of this violence will believers have to endure? We simply don't know.



Our task

What we do know, however, is that our task as servants of God has not changed in the least. Speaking of the End Time, Jesus said, **“...because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” (Matthew 24:12).** The Greek word, *psychō* (Strong's G5594), which the KJV translates as “wax cold,” means to become increasingly cold.

Other versions translate it as “grow cold”, but this misses the fact that it is a process of deterioration that will get worse and worse, like a temperature that keeps falling.

We can contrast this with the constant and unwavering charity of true believers, which would appear to shine more brightly as the love of others grows increasingly cold:

“But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.” (Proverbs 4:18)

The “perfect day” is the day of Christ, when our Redeemer returns and the saints are gathered unto him.

The LORD may use this time to bless us as He prepares the collective body of born-again believers for the perfect day:

**“Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law; that thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked.”
(Psalm 94:12-13)**

This chastening is used to give us rest from the days of “adversity” or evil (*ra* in Hebrew). Thus, the chastening itself is a blessing.

The final clause is especially relevant: “...**until the pit be digged for the wicked.**” We know from other passages of Scripture that the wicked are busily digging their own pit. What is notable about its inclusion here is that the wicked would appear to have their own “clock”, a process they must pass through – the digging of the pit – before the LORD’s judgment falls upon them. Only when this pit is dug, a stage that seems to correspond to the “**fulness of the Gentiles**” (**Romans 11:25**), will this happen.



Baruch, loyal servant of the prophet Jeremiah, was looking ahead to the dreaded day when Jerusalem would fall and the Babylonians would overrun the land of Judah. After his long and faithful service to Jeremiah he expected a more auspicious and rewarding outcome for himself. The LORD sent a stern message to the grieving Baruch which put everything into perspective:

“Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto thee, O Baruch; Thou didst say, Woe is me now! for the LORD hath added grief to my sorrow; I fainted in my sighing, and I find no rest. Thus shalt thou say unto him, The LORD saith thus; Behold, that which I have built will I break down, and that which I have planted I will pluck up, even this whole land. And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest.”

(Jeremiah 45:2-5)

Believers today must do as the LORD says and not seek great things for themselves. Jesus has earned on our behalf everlasting life, a gift without equal. There is no room for **“Woe is me now!”** Rather, we should find comfort and consolation in the blessed hope and not allow ourselves to be unduly shaken by world events:

**“For his anger endureth but a moment;
in his favour is life: weeping may endure
for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”**

– Psalm 30:5

So, whether it is Kaliningrad or another hotspot that launches the great wave of adversity, it will all culminate in the same outcome, a deep pit dug by those whose hatred of God will end in their eternal damnation.

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